

LIGHTCORE

Overview

network overview custom solutions network map



LightCore owns, operates and maintains one of the most extensive fiber optic networks in the Central U.S., currently totaling more than 10,000 route miles spanning 15 states, constructed on secure and largely exclusive rights of way. The network links dozens of smaller, underserved markets with major hub cities, and provides competitive access to key bandwidth aggregation points in metropolitan areas.

Because LightCore is a carriers' carrier, our network has had to meet the high-standards of our customers; the nation's largest telecommunications companies. These companies have learned that they can rely on our network to perform like one of their own.

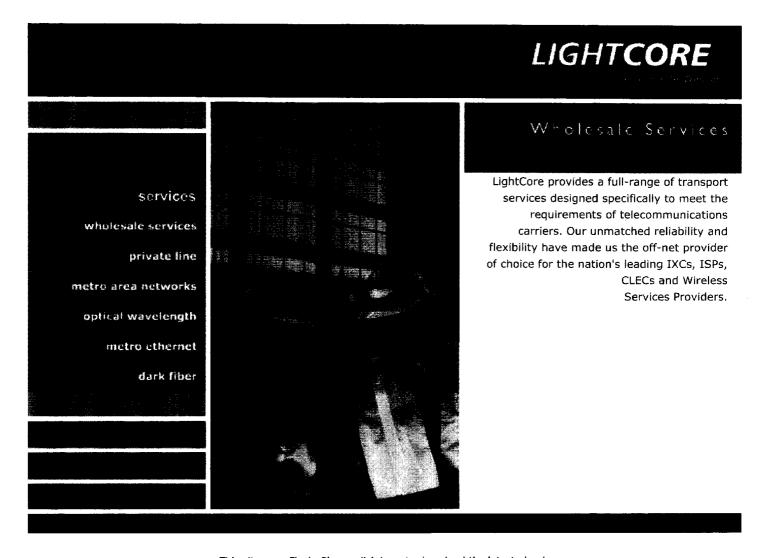
Skilled technicians in our Network
Operations Center monitor the network to
ensure optimal performance 24 hours a day,
365 days a year. Field technical support
personnel are pre-staged at strategic
locations along our fiber routes to maintain
the network integrity and to quickly respond
to any and
all emergencies.

Our network currently spans over 100 points-of-presence (POPs) at key locations in both large and small markets throughout the Central U.S. Network connectivity is provided to private IXC POPs, major carrier hotels, key serving wire centers and mobile telephone switching offices, as well as a growing number of multi-tenant office buildings.

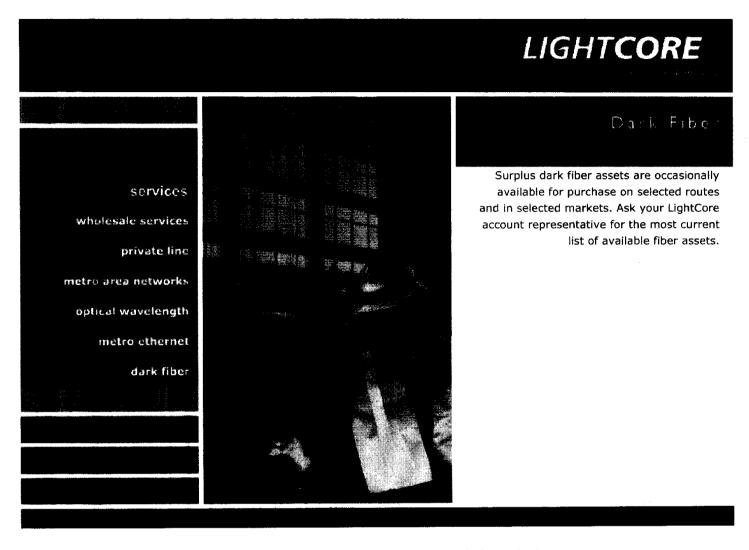
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LIGHTCORE Metro Alea Networks LightCore operates Metropolitan Area services Networks (MANs) in a growing number of key markets throughout its central U.S. wholesale services service area. Each MAN is designed to interconnect major bandwidth aggregation private line points such as serving wire centers, IXC POPs and neutral co-location facilities. In a metro area networks number of markets, the MAN extends into major multi-tenant office buildings, optical wavelength corporate campuses, medical centers and metro ethernet other key locations. dark fiber

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Businesses are increasingly reliant on networks to support complex applications such as Enterprise Resource Planning, Customer Relationship Management, and Electronic Data Interchange. Your business network must deliver fast, reliable, and flexible data transmission. To accommodate the bandwidth demands of today's business environment, Lightpath offers standard T-1 access through enterprise-scale OC-12 floodgates, delivering end-to-end service your company can count on.

For when a traditional point-to-point meshed network just isn't enough, Lightpath also offers Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Frame Relay, and Metro Ethernet services to support demanding high-speed data requirements.

- ATM
- Frame Relay
- **Metro Ethernet** Private Line

- Frequently Asked Questions

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Private Line



DS₁

Description > Applications

DS₃

Description > Applications > Benefits

Description of DS1 Service

DS1 (or T-1) private lines are digital channels that transmit data at a speed of 1.544 Mbps. At such speed, Lightpath's network backbone, which operates on single-mode fiber optic cable, is fully supported and protected by self-healing SONET architecture. Lightpath deploys OC-3, OC-12, and OC-48 rings. The ring architecture consists of two fiber, bidirectional, circuit-switched rings with a separate fiber terminal or set of terminals at each location.

Each DS1 line can be subdivided into 24 voice-data channels. The equipment used for breaking the 24 channels out of a Lightpath node (or "channelizing" at the customer site) is a digital loop carrier—a low-end multiplexer used to connect various customer services via a T-1 circuit.

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Applications

Lightpath's DS1 service offers the following advantages:

• High-Volume Traffic. Lightpath's DS1 service is designed for customers who experience a high volume of traffic through their IXC (interexchange carrier) or other locations. This super-efficient service is traditionally used

ATM

- Frame Relay
- **Metro Ethernet**
- **Private Line**
- Frequently Asked Questions

- by corporations, universities, and government agencies for their local-area network (LAN) interconnections and backbone networks.
- Cost-Effective Delivery. Lightpath's SONET multiplexers accommodate from one to 48 DS3s, with the requisite number of channel banks to provide cost-effective delivery of the DS1 service.
- equipment also provides maximum transmission reliability through the physical redundancy and diversity of all transport facilities and terminal equipment. Rings provide redundant bandwidth and/or equipment to ensure system integrity in the event of transmission or timing failure—including cuts in the fibers or node failure. Traffic entering a path-switched ring node is sent onto both rotations of the ring.

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Description of DS3 Service

Lightpath's DS3 private line service is ideal for interexchange carriers and companies with heavy telecommunications traffic. DS3 (or T-3) circuits may be used on a point-to-point or hubbed basis, and are capable of transmitting at speeds of up to 45 Mbps.

Lightpath's fiber optic backbone is fully supported and protected by self-healing SONET architecture. DS3 digital circuits may be channelized to support 28 DS1s, or they may be subdivided into 672 voice-grade equivalent channels.

Applications

Lightpath's DS3 service offers the following advantages:

- Heavy Telecommunications Traffic. Lightpath's DS3 service is designed for interexchange carriers and large companies with heavy telecommunications traffic.
- Point-to-Point Connectivity. Ideal for any company that uses voice, data, or image services heavily.
- Voice and Data Services. Both services can by used simultaneously or transmitted alternately through each circuit.
- Bulk Data Transfer. Increased throughput is achieved by transmitting large quantities of digital data to customer locations at high speeds.
- Video Transfer. Video data can be transmitted in slow scan mode.

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Benefits

Lightpath's Private Line services offer businesses the following benefits:

- Decreased Cost. Provides a cost-effective private line solution for customers who have a high volume of data and voice applications.
- Added Protection and Diversity. Lightpath can construct a diverse cable entrance into the building, providing an alternate route for added protection.
- High Network Availability and Low Error Rate.
 Lightpath has an overall network availability of 99% and an error-free second rate of 99% or better. The Lightpath biterror rate is less than one error bit per 100 billion.
- SONET-Level Protection. Network protection is achieved through dedicated network circuits for dormant capacity. Lightpath also provides instant disaster recovery to customers who request a backup line. Lightpath's selfhealing SONET architecture provides bidirectional routing, which restores service within 50 milliseconds and eliminates the downtime associated with both fiber cuts and network failure.
- 24-Hour-a-Day, 7-Day-a-Week Network Management. Lightpath's network is monitored around the clock at our network management center (NMC). The NMC provides real-time alarms, as well as status and performance information for all circuits and equipment within Lightpath's intelligent optical network. In the event of circuit or equipment failure, Lightpath's NMC can delete damaged circuits and/or re-route traffic to a clear, redundant path. Our NMC performs loopbacks for remote, end-to-end testing and monitoring of a customer's circuits—even when a portion of the circuit is not carried over Lightpath's network.

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Today, service providers are being asked to supply more than just connectivity. Businesses rely on their carriers for content hosting, data mirroring, and data backup. Regardless of whether service providers extend their offerings to include these types of services or are looking to adhere to core competencies, network performance can only be guaranteed by the delivery of foolproof, high-capacity connectivity.

Lightpath's Service Provider Solutions focus on the specialized needs of the carrier industry, providing service to wireless providers, local exchange carriers, Internet service providers (ISPs), as well as both national and international carriers. Lightpath uses a growing, fiber optic network that includes Lucent switches, and more than 50 hubs in the area's major carrier hotels; because of this, Lightpath can provide carriers throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut with transport services ranging from Ethernet (10M, 100M, GigE) and DS-1 to OC-192 (Wave Division).

With Lightpath, service providers are able to:

- Leverage the manpower, facilities, and resources of a company with more than 16 years of experience in engineering and operating fiber optic networks.
- · Accelerate entry into new businesses and markets by utilizing Lightpath's existing allfiber infrastructure.
- Avoid business risks associated with older network technologies.
- Access a team of network management engineers that will pinpoint and resolve any network problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Confidently implement and uphold customer service agreements.
- Ensure against disaster and provide redundancy using a self-healing, synchronous optical network (SONET) network.

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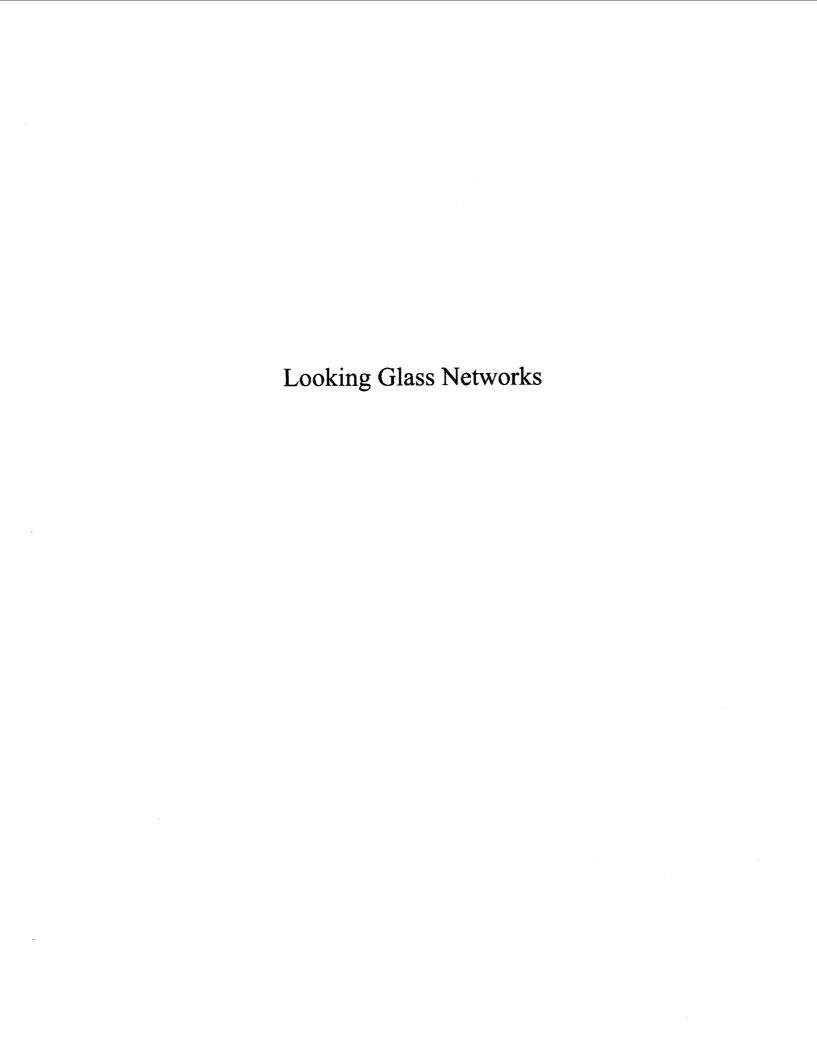
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Lit Bandwidth **FastGLASS EtherGLASS** WaveGLASS

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Lit Bandwidth

We provide the metropolitan data transport services you need - where, when and how you need them. Our end-to-end, redundant networks offer the full spectrum of SONET/SDH, Ethernet and Wavelength services on our flexible, application-neutral optical platforms - speeds ranging from 1.544 Mbps to 10 Gbps.

Our networks offer connections to major data aggregation facilities and enterprise buildings, ensuring reliable service and access to IXC, ISP, ILEC and CLEC locations as well as Web hosting facilities and data centers. Because we own and operate our networks, we can build to the location of your choice, meeting your specific needs. With all our services, you receive consistent fast provisioning, well-placed connectivity and high levels of security and responsiveness.

SONET/SDH, Ether Wavelength servic€ the speeds you nee

Lit Bandwidth



Product Features

- Consistent rapid provisioning times
- Extensive menu of services
- Vast connectivity with build-out capability
- Unparalleled scalability and flexibility
- Simple migration to higher speeds
- Physical diversity from other fiber providers

Types Of Services

- FastGLASSSM SONET/SDH services
- EtherGLASSSM Ethernet services
- WaveGLASSSM Wavelength services

Product Brochure



LitColloBrochure.pdf

For more information contact: sales@lglass.net or call 1-866-778-LGN1(5461)

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Driving Results from Start to Finish

We are providing breakthrough, fast-track solutions in the top U.S. metropolitan areas listed below.

To find a current list of buildings available in your area, roll your mouse over the market in which you are interested



Free from the constraints of legacy systems, Looking Glass builds metro optical networks, which deliver immediate and lasting results. Because we own and control all aspects of our networks, we have the greatest flexibility to meet the requirements of carrier and enterprise customers, keeping them moving at the speed they need.

Safe At Any Speed

Our self-healing networks mean fewer service disruptions and greater network reliability — with annual transmission availability of up to 99.999 percent. With an all-optical network based on next-generation SONET/SDH technologies, our networks are capable of 50 millisecond recovery from failures such as fiber optic cable cuts. All backbone fiber is diversely routed and path protected. Looking Glass' Network Operation Control Center (NOCC) monitors and maintains our networks 24x7.

Solutions In The Fast Lane

We are providing breakthrough, fast-track solutions where the need is greatest — in the top U.S. metropolitan areas. We are initially connecting to key data aggregation buildings in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York/Northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle and Washington D.C./Northern Virginia.

How Do You Benefit?

Every aspect of Looking Glass' operation is designed to provide the highest value to you, now and in the future.

- We deliver the broadest possible range of SONET, Ethernet and Wavelength services.
- Our redundant optical networks connect major data aggregation locations, ensuring access to the services you
 require.
- Our networks offer physical diversity from other fiber providers.
- We can build to the locations of your choice to meet your specific connectivity needs.
 - Turnkey solutions for fiber optic facility design and construction.

- Our network nodes have the space and power to support physical collocation.
 Our Operational Support Systems ensure capacity and configuration availability, support rapid service delivery intervals, and provide Web-based access to everything from service ordering through fulfillment.
 Whenever you have questions and concerns, you get help directly from an experienced and knowledgeable Looking Glass customer care specialist, 24x7.



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Dark Fiber

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DarkGLASSSM - Dark Fiber

We provide the dark fiber you need where, when and how you need it. Our DarkGLASSSMdark fiber solutions offer flexible, fixed-cost access to virtually unlimited capacity. You get the security advantages of ring configuration and exclusive use of each fiber pair plus end-to-end control of speed and bandwidth with the option of supplying your own electronics.

Our metro networks are built to carry extraordinarily high capacity - up to 864 strands of fiber. Because we build, own and maintain our networks, we are physically diverse from other fiber providers and can bring the dark fiber and fiber infrastructure you want wherever you need it. You benefit from our scalability and flexibility as we expand our footprint to meet your changing needs.

Our technologically advanced, high-grade fiber optic cable supports the full spectrum of bandwidth applications including disaster recovery, data warehousing, mirroring, streaming audio/video, distance learning and multiple technologies such as IP, SONET/SDH, DWDM, Fibre Channel, ATM, Frame Relay and Gigabit Ethernet. Our presence at data aggregation points in the top U.S. metro areas ensures reliable access to IXC, ISP, ILEC and CLEC locations as well as Web hosting facilities and data centers.

Why DarkGLASSSM?

- · Virtually unlimited capacity
- · Flexibility to build to meet your specific needs
- · Redundant networks connected to major data aggregation locations
- Support for all applications and technologies
- Your choice of access options

Product Features

Dark Fiber Access Where You Need It

With connectivity in primary Carrier Hotels, ILEC Central Offices (COs) and key enterprise buildings in major U.S. metro markets, DarkGLASS connects you where you need to be. Depending on your location and requirements, we offer the following access options:

- Zero manhole Street-level access at Looking Glass manholes
- Point of Presence (POP) Access at Looking Glass termination panels in buildings where Looking Glass maintains a presence
- Customer location Termination at the customer's location
- ILEC Central Office Access via the Looking Glass collocation area inside the ILEC central office

At the Leading Edge of Fiber

Our technologically advanced, high-grade fiber optic cable supports the full spectrum of bandwidth applications.

Quality and Security

Our commitment to network quality and security is second to none, and is evident throughout our operations. Quality and security play a prominent role at our national Network Operations Control Center (NOCC), where we provide performance monitoring, alarm surveillance and expert support and service 24x7. Additionally, we participate in local One Call, Call Before You Dig, Dig Safe and Dig Alert programs.

Dark Fiber



Flexible, fixed-cost to virtually unlimite capacity.



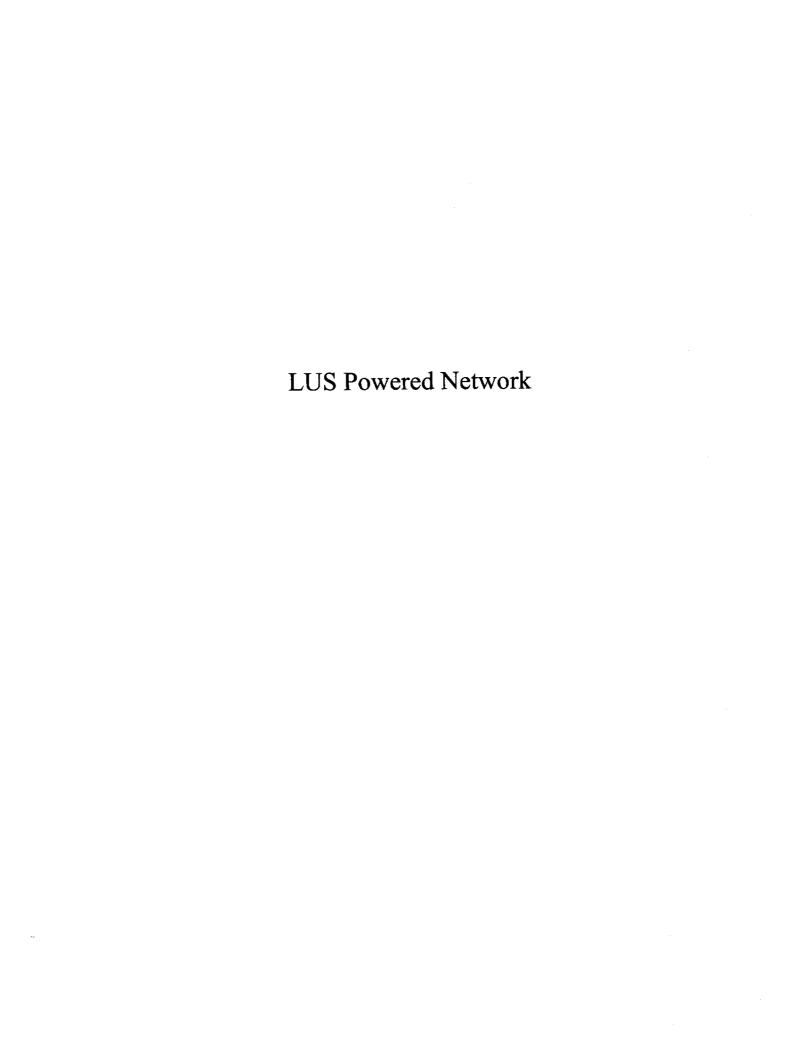
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Ntense Technologies Ntense Technologies has over 50 years combined experience in the IT field, and holds more industry standard certifications than any of the competition. **Ntense Technologies** delivers greater productivity through the latest technologies. Service offerings include: Networking Broadband · Web Serv ...

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Lafayette Utilities System

For over 100 years, LUS has provided essential services to the community. In 1896, the citizens of Lafayette had the foresight to establish an entity to supply electricity and water to the community. This organization has developed into what is today the publicly owned Lafayette Utilities System serving over 55,000 electric accounts, 44,000 water accounts, 35,000 wastewater accounts and offering wholesale telecommunications services within the City of Lafayette and portions of Lafayette Parish.

LUS Powered Network

In January 2002, LUS activated the LUS Powered Network for wholesale telecommunication customers. Wholesale products and services include broadband, dedicated packet service, shared packet service, direct Internet access, customer premise equipment, tower lease packages, and last mile service.

The need for an enhanced communication system was introduced by LUS in 1998. At that time, LUS proposed expanding its infrastructure beyond traditional utilities by constructing a 65-mile, 96-strand SONETbased telecommunications system, the LUS Powered Network, with direct connections to Tier 1 providers. The network reaches within one mile of most businesses and residences in the City of Lafayette including major areas of development and primary traffic routes. LUS constructed the Powered Network to replace an aging microwave communications system which provided critical information between LUS electric substations and the main control center. LUS retained 12 fibers from the network for its communications needs in order to maintain a highly reliable system. The Powered Network began transmitting working traffic in December 2000 including data from the LUS electric

transmission and distribution system.

The remaining fiber was made available to facilitate broadband and high-speed Internet access to wholesale customers including CLECs, ISPs, and CAPs. The LUS Powered Network offers bandwidth solutions ranging from T1 to OC192, 1Mbps to 10 Gbps Ethernet, and 100 Mbps Internet services. The network is monitored and maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. LUS is a registered Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) with the Louisiana Public Service Commission.



1-16-02 LUS Powered Network press conference (Terry Huval, LUS Director; US Senator John Breaux; US Representative Chris John)

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Metro Private Line Services

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If your business needs to transmit data between one or more locations within the same metropolitan area, MCI[®] Metro Private Line (MPL) services are a reliable alternative to comparable services offered by your local exchange carrier (LEC).

MCI's local network facilities are totally separate from your LEC's facilities (including building access), so there are no single points of failure on the MCI network. That means MPL is one of the most reliable private line services on the market. MCI, an inter-exchange carrier, offers local service over its own network facilities. MPL services have the bandwidth capacity to provide your company with a flexible, secure, and cost-effective private line solution.

What Are MCI's Metro Private Line Options?

Analog/Digital Services

- Full Bandwidth Services. DS-0 (56 Kbps) with VGA (analog) or digital, DS-1 (1.544 Mbps), and DS-3 (44.736 Mbps)
- Channelized Services. DS-1 channelized into 24 DS-0s, and DS-3 channelized into 28 DS-1s
- Hubbed Services. DS-1 and DS-3
- Bridged Services. DS-0 and DS-1

SONET Services

- Concatenated (Full Bandwidth) Services. OC-3c (155.520 Mbps), OC-12c (622 Mbps), and OC-48c (2.5 Gbps)
- Channelized Services. OC-3 with DS-1, DS-3 and STS-1 interfaces, OC-12 with DS-1, DS-3, STS-1 and OC-3 interfaces, and OC-48 with DS-1, DS-3, STS-1, OC-3 and OC-12 interfaces
- Multipoint Services. Providing connectivity between a host site and two
 or more secondary sites at SONET Transport Signal (STS) Volume
 Options from OC-3 to OC-48 channelized or concatenated. Interfaces
 are in combinations of DS1 through OC-48/48c, and endlinks off a hub
 connection may be DS-1, DS-3, OC-3/3c, or OC-12/12c

Ethernet Services

- · A standard, high-speed Ethernet interface for MPL SONET services
- Connects your company resources via a point-to-point, dedicated service that employs Ethernet as the access and termination method with your 1 Gbps interface
- Bandwidths of STS-1, STS-3, and STS-12 are available. Requests for 10/100 Mbps and 1 Gbps are reviewed on an individual case basis

Why MCI Metro Private Lines?

· Quick, reliable data transmission over our state-of-the-art, 100 percent

What Is SONET?

Short for Synchronous Optical Network, SONET is an international technical standard for connecting fiber optic communication systems. By establishing a standard speed for the network, communication carriers throughout the world can interconnect their existing fiber optic digital carrier systems.

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View example

fiber-optic network, where unidirectional SONET rings provide added security due to the self-healing capabilities of SONET ring technology

- Local network route diversity MCI will support connections to your locations not on our network, enhancing your network reach
- Service flexibility enables you to combine or segregate voice, data, or video applications
- Outstanding 24x7 customer service support and proactive network monitoring and support
- A highly competitive, single-source solution with just one contract, one contact, and one bill

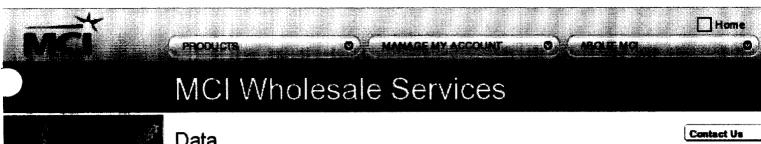
What Applications Do MCI Metro Private Lines Support?

- Peer-to-Peer. Send data between designated locations via highperformance, secure dedicated lines.
- Local Area Networks (LAN). Connect to other LANs, mainframes, desktop computers, or supercomputers using MPL (requires appropriate bridges and routers).
- Tie Lines. Connect to an internal telephone system via dedicated lines between two designated locations.
- Videoconferencing. Establish virtual meeting areas at designated locations using videoconferencing coder-decoder (codec) equipment, monitors, and cameras.
- Imaging. Transmit documents between designated locations using imaging hardware and software.

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Data

MCI offers a wide range of wholesale data products, featuring one of the world's largest and most sophisticated data networks.

Private Line Services

As the industry's leading provider of facilities-based localto-global services in many locations worldwide, MCI offers a comprehensive portfolio of private line solutions designed to accommodate virtually any type of communications application, from voice-grade to broadcasting applications.

More information.

Metro Private Line Services

Metro Private Line Services offer point-to-point or pointto-multipoint service between customer-designated locations for voice, data, video, imaging or carrier-tocarrier access needs within a LATA. MCI offers Metro Private Line Services in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) nationwide, providing cost-effective alternatives to services provided by Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) or Competitive LECs (CLECs).

International Private Line

MCI offers full-duplex, dedicated, digital private line services to more than 150 countries at capacities ranging from 64 Kbps up to 155.52 Mbps. With a ruggedly engineered transatlantic fiber-optic network and an extensive pan-European network, MCI is able to deliver international building-to-building service with maximum network integrity.

More information.

Private IP

Private IP provides a network-based Virtual Private Network (VPN) topology based on MultiProtocol Label Switching (MPLS) and uses Frame Relay or ATM technologies to access the network. Private IP is designed for customers that want to share information in a secure environment across a Private IP backbone. More information.

Integrated DS1 Access

Integrated DS1 Access allows products such as 1+, Toll Free, Private Line, Frame Relay and Internet Access via Frame Relay Transport to be transported over the same DS1 local loop allowing you to save money on the access recurring and installation charges.

More information.

Frame Relay Service

Wholesale Frame Relay Service allows you to provide branded frame relay service to your customers. Frame Relay Service is a data communications interface standard for wideband packet-switching, providing transmissioon of variable-length packets across a digital virtual private network. The packets can access the network at port speeds of 56 Kbps to 20 Mbps domestically, and up to 2 Mbps internationally. Frame Relay Service operates within the MCI broadband platform, which accommodates interworking between cell- and packet-based technologies. More information.

ATM allows the end user to support multiple applications such as voice, data, and video-through a single network access interface. Utilizing a cell-based, high-speed broadband service that can integrate all types of traffic. Our ATM services are based on the latest ATM Forum specifications and international standards, provisioned on one of the largest ATM networks with a fully redundant backbone and state-of-the-art core and edge switching. More information.

Colocation Services

Network Colocation services provide secure, carriergrade space to house your data and voice network equipment within a world-class managed environment. Relying on Colocation Services for your domestic and international needs allows you to concentrate on the content and application of your business, not on details of managing the infrastructure.

More information.

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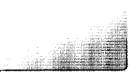
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McLeodUSA Preferred Advantage® Dedicated Internet delivers dedicated Internet connections so your employees can research the competition and communicate with customers and suppliers faster and more effectively.

McLeodUSA Preferred Advantage® Dedicated Internet features:

- Dedicated Internet access at a variety of speeds, either T-1 or DS3, ranging from 128 Kbps to 45 Mbps, on the McLeodUSA advanced network
- Primary and Secondary domain name service (DNS) as well as DNS hosting
- Multiple registered IP addresses, from three to 248
- 24/7 customer service and network support
- Bundling with McLeodUSA local and long distance services, including shared local loop charges (optional service)
- Service Level Agreements that guarantee performance. Subject to change. Please check your contract for actual service level agreement.
- Up to twenty (20) "user @mcleodusa.net" email addresses with one 10MB mailbox per address and 6 MB of personal web space - all included for no extra charge.
- The ability to purchase branded individual corporate email accounts with Internet domains

For more information on Preferred Advantage® Dedicated Internet Service, please contact a McLeodUSA customer service representative at 1-800-593-1177.

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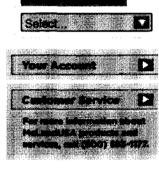


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